



September 2013

**Newmont Boddington Gold Mine Life of Mine Expansion Project
Public Environment Review Submission
- Impacts to the Bibbulmun Track**

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is writing in support of the recommendations made in the submission by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW).

Background

Whilst the DPaW acts as Manager of the Track, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation is recognised as the primary focal point for community-based support and involvement, and has primary responsibility for promoting the Track to potential walkers and maintaining the Track through a volunteer maintenance program. The Foundation has over 2000 members and 300 volunteers.

The Bibbulmun Track is promoted internationally as a world class walking track bringing economic and recreational benefits to nine communities in the south west of WA.

It is essential that the integrity of the Bibbulmun Track is maintained as:

- a **continuous** long-distance trail
- a quality 'wilderness' experience

We are pleased to acknowledge that NBG has liaised with the Foundation and the DPaW but wish to emphasise that the following recommendations outlined in the submission from the DPaW are essential to retain the quality of the experience for walkers now and into the future.

- 1. Recommendation Track Diversion:** The track diversion, as outlined in the Main Report, is supported by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW). Further work is required to develop the actual alignment for the BT.
- 2. Recommendation Track Diversion:** Works to realign the BT away from the new NBG waste rock dump area must be completed prior to NBG commencing work to ensure the Track remains open and continuous.
- 3. Recommendation Track Diversion:** If the extensions are to go ahead the DPaW and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation request NBG to fund the realignment of the BT and relocation of the Mt Wells Campsite.

4. **Recommendation Visual Impacts:** To retain the scenic and visual landscape values of the BT where possible, including any potential realignment of the BT. This can be achieved through retaining vegetation adjacent to the BT and in the viewshed. For any realignment consideration needs to be given to visual impacts, and preferably choose an area sufficiently away from this disturbance.
5. **Recommendation Noise Impact:** The investigation by NBG to reduce audible vehicle warning signals, particularly reversing alarms on dump trucks, dozers and signals, is supported by DPaW.
6. **Recommendation Noise Impacts:** NBG commit to relocating the Mt Wells Campsite to ensure the experience the BT offers to its visitors.
7. **Recommendation Air Emissions:** When relocating the BT and camp site consideration to be given to the impacts of air emissions, in particular dust.
8. **Recommendation Connectivity:** To ensure a north-south passage of the BT through the NGB and ALCOA tenements.

Yours faithfully

Mike Wood
Bibbulmun Track Foundation
on behalf of the Board of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation

PO Box 7605
Cloisters Square Perth WA 6850
Phone: 9481 0551
Email: mike@peregrinewa.com.au